TOP OF THE NEWS, June, 1946

From the A. L. A. Division of Libraries for Children and Young People
VOLUME II—NUMBER 4

DIVISION NEWS

ELIZABETH D. BRIGGS, *President*

The first conference since 1942 should fine many members of the Division in attendance. The program for the general session, Friday June 21, has been built around the present-day needs of children and youth, and the immediate problems which confront librarians who are working with these important groups in all types of libraries. Mrs. Annis Duff will speak of books with special emphasis upon their use by boys and girls for both fun and profit. Service to children and young people in institution libraries will be presented by Miss Mildred Methven, Supervisor of Institution Libraries in Minnesota. This is a subject with which few of us are familiar. Now as never before, children handicapped by circumstances over which they have no control should be given the opportunities which are lightly taken for granted by their more fortunate contemporaries. Richard Logsdon, recently appointed Librarian of the Office of Education, will discuss the needs for library service of children and youth in terms of their challenge to libraries and librarians today.

At the business meeting which will be held on Monday morning June 17th, reports of officers and committees will be given. There will be an opportunity for discussion of Division activities, for suggestion and constructive criticism. It is hoped that many members will find it possible to attend and to take an active part in the Division program.

DIVISION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Constitution Committee—Irene Hayner, Chairman

Suggestions for the amendment of two articles in the Constitution were made:

Article IV, Section 2 and Section 2(a) to remove restrictions now in effect upon Sections in regard to memberships in more than one group.

Article VIII to remove restriction in regard to time of publishing proposed amendments in the A. L. A. Bulletin.

Division News Committee—Dorothy deGoza, Chairman.

As with all newly organized committees the Division News has been in a somewhat nebulous state trying to orient itself in the work of other similar Division committees so that it does not impinge upon their duties. In view of the fact that "the most obvious work of the Division News Committee is planning, obtaining, and keeping records of the publicity at the annual and midwinter conferences" it has concerned itself chiefly with such items.

The committee has made contacts with conference speakers, collecting biographical sketches and pictures ready for releasing to newspapers during the annual A. L. A. Conference. Arrangements have also been made for the committee to have advance copies of speeches to implement conference publicity.

For a continuing project it has alerted itself for material about children's reading, or libraries for children, which would be of sufficient national interest to appear in newspapers or general magazines.

Editorial Committee—Virginia Chase, Chairman

The Editorial Committee was asked to comment on two manuscripts submitted to A. L. A. for publication, and on several proposed projects, namely: cataloging records and films for school libraries; new edition of Basic Book Collection for High School; budgets for school libraries and for children's departments in public libraries; new edition of Basic Reference Books; and a dozen other subjects to be discussed at a pre-conference meeting in Buffalo.

Elections Committee—Marguerite Kirk, Chairman

By vote of the membership the following persons were elected to the positions indicated:

Division Representatives on the A. L. A. Council

Helen Iredell, Librarian Woodrow Wilson High School, Long Beach, Calif.

Virginia Chase, Supervisor, Children's Work, Free Public Library, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Beatrice Schein, Young People's Librarian, 'Teen Corner, Newark Public Library, Newark, New Jersey.

Vice-President, President-elect

Jean C. Roos, Supervisor, Youth Department, Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland, Ohio.

Committee on Evaluation of Book Selection Aids—Ruth Ersted, Chairman.

The work of the Committee on Evaluation of Book Selection Aids is still limited to a consideration of three lists: *The Children's Catalog,* the *Standard Catalog for High School Libraries,* and the proposed List of Books in large type being prepared by Miss Heenan, Librarian of the Minnesota Braille and Sight Saving School at Faribault, Minnesota.

Suggestions regarding desirable changes in the coming edition of the *Children's Catalog* were compiled from questionnaires and sent to Dorothy Cook, Editor of the *Standard Catalog* series and to Ruth Giles, who is assisting with the preparation of the seventh edition.

The committee has also started to work on suggested changes for the next edition of the *Standard Catalog for High School Libraries.*

Magazine Publicity Committee—Helen O'Conor, Chairman.

The report for this Committee is chiefly one of work in progress. Never has it been as difficult as during the past ten months to obtain articles from members of the profession. Six articles promised last fall remain unfinished. Acute paper shortage and similarity to other published articles are reasons for rejection of some of the articles submitted.

Membership Committee—Eleanor Kidder, Chairman

The Division Membership Committee checked the Division membership file of 1944 against the 1945 file and compiled a list, arranged by affiliation, of names which do not appear in 1945. These lists have been given to Section treasurers to be used by them or Section membership chairmen in making a personal appeal for renewal of Division membership.

Most of the loss in Division Only, Public Library and Young People's Reading Round Table probably results from transfers to the new Public Library Division.

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This loss will be permanent. However, many membership slips show that librarians legitimately belonging to the Division have failed to rejoin it. The following figures are the result of the check of the files.

1944 MEMBERSHIPS DROPPED IN 1945	
Division Affiliation Only	76
American Association of School Librarians	186
Public Library Section	109
Children's Library Association	183
Young People's Reading Round Table	144
TOTAL DROPPED MEMBERSHIP, 1945	698

MEMBERSHIP JANUARY 1, 1946 TO MARCH 31, 1946	
Division Affiliation only	94
American Association of School Librarians	792
Public Library Section	41
Children's Library Association	518
Young People's Reading Round Table	184
TOTAL	1629

MEMBERSHIP—1945	
Division Only	162
American Association of School Librarians	1119
Public Library Section	66
Children's Library Association	828
Young People's Reading Round Table	312
TOTAL	2487

THIS INCLUDES EXTRA SECTION MEMBERSHIPS AT 25c AS FOLLOWS:	
American Association of School Librarians	39
Children's Library Association	20
Young People's Reading Round Table	47
TOTAL	106

Planning Committee—Elizabeth D. Briggs, Chairman

Two sub-committees are preparing material for a pamphlet or pamphlets on service to children and young people in public library buildings, through bookmobile and shut-in service, and in agencies or institutions under public library direction. One under the chairmanship of Mabel Williams met in New York in January for three days concentrated work on setting up standards for service to young people. Miss Mary R. Lucas, chairman of the other, called her committee together in Cleveland May 2nd to 4th for discussion and criticism of the first draft of material on planning for children.

The first publication of the Planning Committee, "School Libraries for Today and Tomorrow," prepared under the former chairman, has been widely used.

Professional Training and Recruiting Committee—Velma R. Shaffer, Chairman

The Professional Training and Recruiting Committee of the Division is a clearing house for the activities of similar sectional committees. Reports to date include some very worthwhile projects which should contribute materially toward recruitment and professional training: (1) the promise of a book, *When I Grow Up I'll Be a Librarian*, in the Rifkin series, a magazine article in *Seventeen*, a vocational film, and a pamphlet for pupils; (2) contacts made with (a) heads of education accreditation bodies regarding the type of program agreed upon by A. A. S. L. in June, 1945, and (b) graduate schools regarding their acceptance of graduates from this type of program. A suggestion has been received that the three sections of the Division combine their efforts to produce recruiting material to be distributed by A. L. A.

Radio and Broadcasting Committee—Dilla W. McBean, Chairman

The sale of the Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen records continues to be encouraging, approximating six-hundred sets by June, 1946. On the strength of this interest and apparent need, the Committee is planning to submit, for consideration, trial auditions by Ruth Sawyer, Alan Lomax, Mary Gould Davis, Frances Clark Sayers, and others, to the Executive Board of the Division at the Buffalo Conference. From these the Committee will endeavor to have more records in the field of traditional literature, available for ordering in the fall from the American Library Association.

Booklist Committee—Marjorie Van Deusen, Chairman

Lists of *Books for Young People,* compiled by the Booklist Committee, have been published in the November 15, and the April 15, A. L. A. *Booklist.* Outstanding books were few. The committee considered many titles pro and con, trying to select those that would be popular with young people and that would also have unquestioned value. For the first time the committee was made up of both school and public librarians whose interest in young people's reading drew them together.

Special Committee on Booklist for Community Chests and Councils, Inc.
Margaret M. Clark, Chairman

A request from Community Chests and Councils, Inc., that the American Library Association prepare a booklist to be used as part of the Council's national school program was referred to the Division President, who appointed a committee of children's, school, and young people's librarians to prepare the list.

Because of the lack of material on Community Fund activities the list was based on books emphasizing good intercultural, international and interracial relations which would make young people receptive to ideas of cooperation and generosity.

An annotated selection of 150 titles entitled *Building Together* was submitted to the Communty Chests and Councils on April 1, and will be available shortly for distribution through the Council.

Newbery-Caldecott Awards—Helen Fuller, Chairman

For the results of the work of this Committee watch for reports of the Tuesday evening, meeting, June 18th of the C. L. A. in Buffalo.

TOP OF THE NEWS COMMITTEE—Alice Louise LeFevre, Chairman

Special effort has been made to simplify the method of keeping up to date the mailing list which now numbers over 2500 names. With the aid of the efficient reporting of Mate Graye Hunt, Evelyn R. Sickels and Margaret Scoggin, each representing one of the groups constituting the Division, the four issues of TOP OF THE NEWS were published in October, January, March and June.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SECTION: CHILDREN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

HARRIET LEAF, *Chairman*

Conference Program

Monday, June 17, 4:00 p. m.

Reception and tea for children's librarians at the Town Club. Members of Branch, Children's, and Work with Schools Departments of the Buffalo Public Library will be our hostesses.

Tuesday, June 18, 2:30 p. m.

General theme for the afternoon: Wiser Children for a Future Peace. We are happy to announce that Mr. Frederic Melcher will speak on "The Challenge of

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New Readers." Mrs. Frances Clarke Sayers will be co-chairman for the afternoon.

Tuesday, June 18, 7:00 p. m.

The awards will be presented and the medalists will give their acceptance speeches at the dinner. This will provide an opportunity for more of the Library Association members to participate in the Newbery-Caldecott occasion. Therefore, make reservations early with Miss Helen Sullivan of the Buffalo Public Library.

Wednesday, June 19, 9:30 a. m.

Business meeting. It is important that the members plan to attend.

The hospitality chairman is Muriel Gilbert, Head of the Children's Department of the Buffalo Public Library.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Book Evaluation Committee—Virginia Chase, Chairman.

The Committee has concerned itself with recommendations of past committees with the result that the June issue of the Library Journal will carry an article by Mrs. Frances Clarke Sayers reaffirming our convictions on the Newbery and Caldecott awards. A method has been set up by which future committees may issue annually a critical, annotated list of DISTINGUISHED CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

Book Production Committee—Eunice Blake, Chairman.

The Committee has carried on its regular annual activity—the sponsoring of Traveling State Library Exhibits of Children's Books—by arranging for publishers to contribute free review copies of new titles to State Commissions which promise to circulate such exhibits among libraries. A one hundred percent response of the success of such exhibits has been received from the thirteen participating states. The committee is also preparing a circular showing the breakdown on the cost of making children's books, using the picture book and books of fiction as samples.

International Committee—Ruth Giles, Chairman.

Two members conferred with Miss Isabella Jinette of Baltimore, the children's librarian selected to inaugurate work with children in Tasmania. Her request for a list of books for a model collection to be selected by the C. L. A. was presented to the Chairman of the Association and arrangements were made to have a "Treasure Chest" sent to the children of Tasmania. The Committee is at work on a list of children's books for China requested by the International Relations Board as a result of a fund raised by *Stars and Stripes* in Chungking. Thanks go to Mr. Andrew Lemke for his assistance in furthering the Committee's project of providing funds for establishment of children's libraries in war-torn countries.

Membership Committee—Ethel C. Karrick, Chairman

Returns from regional chairmen are still incomplete. Ten of the regional and fifty-three state and city chairmen distributed 2500 publicity dodgers, (The A. B. C. of the C. L. A.) and 2500 application blanks. They also mailed several hundred personal appeals to children's librarians, addressed district and state meetings besides placing several articles in state periodicals. Emphasis was placed upon the importance of correctly indicating on the application blank the desire for membership in the Children's Library Association.

Professional Training Committee—Irene Smith, Chairman

The Professional Training Committee is interested in three main approaches to our personnel problems: 1—A "Future Librarians of America" program, in which public libraries would organize and interest high school aged helpers in future professional careers. The role of the Children's Room in thus attracting prospective Children's Librarians offers special possibilities. 2—When speakers recruit library school students in the colleges and universities, see that children's librarianship is presented on its own vital, attractive terms, by best qualified representatives. 3—Exert every possible influence on our Training Centers, to improve opportunities for earning Masters Degrees in our own special field; and to strengthen the curriculum in every subject related to work with children.

Publicity Committee—Evelyn R. Sickels, Chairman.

This Committee acts as liason officer between committees for TOP OF THE NEWS. Other projects are still in the formative stage.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SECTION: YOUNG PEOPLE'S READING ROUND TABLE

AMELIA MUNSON, *Chairman*

Membership Committee—Doris Wood, Chairman.

A letter was sent to each member of the Young People's Reading Round Table in the interest of continuing membership and recruiting new members among those working with young people.

Publicity Committee—Margaret Scoggin, Chairman.

This committee serves to report to the editor of TOP OF THE NEWS matters pertaining to the work of the Round Table and of development in the field of work with young people of high school age.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

MIRIAM SNOW, *Chairman*

Committee Reports

Thirteen standing committees, seven special, and three conference ones with 150 school librarians participating have been actively at work this year. Full details of their varied activities will be given at the Business Meeting of the A. A. S. L. in Buffalo, New York, June 19.

Standing Committees

Audio-Visual Aids, Ruth Gentles, Chairman.

Plans to publish a pamphlet describing the selection and organization of audio-visual aids have been suspended awaiting completion of the work in the same field of Laura Crawford at the Graduate Library School, University of Chicago. The Committee is now at work on a list of non-musical recordings for secondary schools.

Budget—Genevieve Geiger, Chairman.

The first real budget planned this year experimentally is being used by the committee as a basis for formulating policies on the section budget and planning the budget for 1946-47.

Constitution—Virginia McJenkin, Chairman.

The following changes will be presented for discussion at the Buffalo Conference in June to permit:

1. Abandonment of the 25c fee charged members of each of the other two Sections of the Division who wish to belong to the A. A. S. L.

2. A mail vote for the election of officers.

3. All terms of office to expire after the final session of the annual conference rather than after the Business Meeting.

Educational Professional Literature, Margaret Lee, Chairman.

This new service Committee has been formed to solicit articles pertinent to the school library field for publication in educational periodicals, to encourage school librarians to submit articles for publication in local state and city educational periodicals and to list the articles published in the Bulletin of the American Association of School Librarians.

Magazine Evaluation, Laura Martin, Chairman

The general aim of this Committee is the annotating of new magazines and this year the group has also been at work on an article concerning the selection of magazines.

Membership—Elizabeth Thomas, Chairman

Each Committee member was responsible for gaining new members in one of the nine geographic areas into which the state was divited. A publicity folder was prepared for distribution at the Buffalo Conference and later throughout the country.

Nominating—Mary Peacock Douglas, Chairman.

Chairman: Rheta Clark.

Vice-chairman: Marjorie Ven Deusen.

Secretary: Margaret Walraven for one year to fill an unexpired term.

Director, 1946-49: Edna Gustafson, Fannie Schmitt.

Member of the Board of the Division of Libraries for Children and Young People for two years to complete an unexpired term: Sue Hefley.

Member of the Board of the Division of Libraries for Children and Young People for a three year term, 1946-49: Margaret Fraser, Agnes Krarup.

The present Treasurer and two members of the Board will continue to serve in their present capacities: Edna Ballard, Genevieve Geiger, and Frances Henne.

Planning Library Quarters—Sue Hefley, Chairman.

Please, Mr. Architect is the title of a pamphlet on planning the school library which has been prepared by this Committee with professional aid on the drawings. This will be ready for enclosure in the fall Newsletter and requests have also come from A. L. A. for extra copies to be used at Headquarters.

Professional Education—Helen Butler, Chairman.

The Committee is at work on a proposed plan for revision of the professional training of school librarians providing for an undergraduate program which will be the basis of a graduate program leading to a master's degree.

Reading for Background—Margaret Rufsvold, Chairman.

The two following lists have been accepted for publication by the H. W. Wilson Co.; Biographies of People who have overcome Handicaps by Agnes Shields and American History Stories for Children by Eloise Rue.

Recruitment—Lucille Viehe, Chairman.

The Committee is acting as a clearing house for all material published by various groups on recruiting for school librarianship and has under consideration plans for a film on school library work and a manual on recruiting.

School Library Service and the Adult Education Program—Agnes Krarup, Chm.

A three year study is being made of the work done in adult education in the school libraries of the country. The study will ultimately lead to the making of recommendations particularly for the small school library.

Statistics—Edna Gillogly, Chairman.

The Chairman and four school librarians have met with Miss Batchelder at A. L. A. Headquarters to study and compare statistical forms of all kinds with the aim of making them more meaningful to the school librarian.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

International School Library News—Marion Horton, Chairman.

The two pages of "news worthy" items about school libraries all over the world, collected by this committee, were used as an enclosure for the May Newsletter and were also sent to a selected list of school librarians in other countries.

Promotion of Standards—Agnes Shields, Chairman.

Working with the presidents of two state associations of school librarians, Miss Shields has been assembling accounts of various ways in which *School Libraries for Today and Tomorrow* has been discussed and publicized. They will be used as a basis of a letter to be sent in the fall to regional, state, and local library and educational associations—full of suggestions as to the use of our standards.

Publications—Rheta Clark, Chairman.

This is our banner committee of 36 members working in various fields to ascertain the feasability of a printed bulletin for the A. A. S. L. In a meeting of committee members in December it was recommended that: "The association issue a bulletin, primarily for its membership. This bulletin would comprise general articles addressed to school librarians and special issues could be featured."

Quill and Scroll—Louise Anthony, Chairman.

The committee was formed to work with Quill and Scroll, a high school journalistic society, sponsored by Northwestern University, which suggests various activities not only for its own members but for all classes in high school journalism. Next year Quill and Scroll proposed to feature school libraries in various ways—exploring needs, doing public relationship work and publicity in connection with them. Miss Anthony and her committee have been meeting with the executive secretary of the society and making definite suggestions as to procedures.

Russia-Bibliography—Elizabeth Groves, Chairman.

Our May Newsletter contained the useful six page bibliography of books and other instructional aids about Russia which this committee compiled.

School Library Service for Veterans—Alice Horsfall, Chairman.

An article on ways in which both large and small high school libraries could help returning service men and women was published by one of the Committee members, Katherine Pedley, in the November 1945 Bulletin of the School Library Association of California.

Alice Louise Le Fevre, Editor
Department of Librarianship
Western Michigan College of Education
Kalamazoo, Michigan

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